

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A container which is to be autoclaved has a shiftable plunger that defines a compartment filled with a fluid. The container is confined in a pressurizable chamber and heated so as to change a pressure in the compartment of the container. The pressure in the compartment of the container is monitored and an output corresponding thereto is generated. Pressure in the chamber around the container is continuously varied so as to be generally equal to the instantaneous monitored pressure in the compartment of the container. In this manner the plunger is not moved by thermal expansion or contraction of the fluid.